Setting up of food processing industries in Tamil Nadu

*373. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many varieties of fruits like, grapes, mangoes, jackfruits, etc. are grown in large quantities in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote setting up of fruit-based food processing industries in the State; and

(c) whether Government will pay special attention to fruit growing districts like Madurai, Theni, Dharmapuri etc. while setting up food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under plan schemes being operated by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, assistance is provided for setting up/expansion/ modernization of fruits & vegetables processing units. The assistance will be in the form of grant subject to 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works up to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General Areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas.

Besides, under the scheme for Human Resource Development, assistance is provided for setting up of Food Processing Training Centres for development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing locally grown raw material. Under the scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and Research & Development, assistance is provided for development of new cost effective technology for preservation & packaging of food products, to update processing, packaging and storage technologies etc. as well as for improving quality standards.

Proposals for setting up/expansion/modernization of fruits & vegetables processing units from districts like Madurai, Theni, Dharmapuri etc. forwarded and recommended by the State Nodal Agency of Tamil Nadu may be considered for financial assistance under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing

Industries, if the same is found to be technically feasible and financially viable. During 10th Plan, financial assistance to 19 units in fruits & vegetable processing sector in Tamil Nadu worth Rs. 558.05 lakhs has been approved under this plan scheme.

Implementation of Recommendations of Moily Committee

†*374. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government for implementing the recommendations of Moily Committee on the issue of 27 per cent reservation in higher educational institutions and for gradual increase in the capacity of the institutions;

(b) whether there are any guidelines to ensure that there is no cut or loss of seats for the students of general category;

(c) whether the system of reservation would also be applicable in the case of institutions engaged in higher research and development;

(d) whether Government would sanction grants for implementing reservation in higher educational institutions; and

(e) if so, the amount of grants for this purpose and whether it would be included in Budget proposals?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) A Legislative Bill for effecting reservations for the weaker sections including Other Backward Classes in admissions to all Centrally aided/maintained/established higher education institutions, is before the Parliament for its consideration. Recommendations of the Oversight Committee which was constituted for drawing up a roadmap for implementing the policy of reservations in admission to Centrally aided/ maintained/established higher education institutions, can be implemented after the proposed Legislation is enacted. Government has taken steps to include those of the recommendations of the Oversight Committee, which entail provision of financial outlays in the XIth Plan Proposals of this Ministry.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi